Cultural festival in schools

3034. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are introducing cultural festivals for students in schools in the country;

(b) if so, the modalities worked out so far;

(c) the funds allocated/to be allocated to each district, State-wise; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (d) No, Sir. However, under the 'Scheme of Assistance for Strengthening Education in Human Values', grant is given to NGOs for promoting cultural and human values at all levels of education including school system. 35 NGOs have been assisted under this scheme across 15 States since 2002-03 for organizing cultural activities to inculcate cultural value among school children.

Regulation of foreign universities

3035. DR. VIJAY MALLYA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of foreign educational institutes and universities operating in the country;

(b) whether it is necessary to reserve seats for candidates from Backward Classes in these universities;

(c) by when the proposed Bill to regulate foreign universities would be introduced and what would be its salient features; and

(d) whether the proposed Bill would take into account the cultural and linguistic sensitivities of the people of India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) No centralized data is being maintained in this regard.

(b) to (d) A Proposal in this regard is under consideration of the Government. However, no such decision has yet been taken.